

30 minutes there on the first day of observation, however, perhaps brooding the young.

The prey items given to the young did not seem appreciably different from those taken by the adults (see also Roberts 1991), which were observed consuming small lizards (4-6 cm in length), ants and other small insects. The adults were twice noted following grass-cutters, looking for disturbed insects and other prey.

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# A breeding record for Minahassa Owl *Tyto inexpectata* from Dumoga-Bone National Park, Sulawesi, Indonesia

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The Minahassa Owl *Tyto inexpectata* is a rare owl that is seldom reported. It has been recorded from the north-eastern peninsula of Sulawesi and there is a single record from the north-central part of the island. The only previous evidence of nesting was from Coomans de Ruiter, who observed a pair on 8 April 1939 attending what appeared to be a nest hole in an *Elmerrillia ovalis* tree on the slopes of Mt Koemerisot (Bishop 1989).

During a birding trip to Sulawesi and Halmahera in August/September 1995 I stayed at the PHPA Research Station at Toraut, Dumoga-Bone National Park from 7-11 September.

At about 04h30 on the morning after my arrival I heard the feeding call of a young *Tyto* owl, which I quickly tracked down to a tall strangler-fig tree near the river, about 50 m from the station buildings. The calling bird was observed in a torch beam sitting on a branch about 25 m up in the tree. It was in juvenile plumage, which in the torchlight appeared to be a speckled greyish-white colour on the underparts, and somewhat more brownish on the wings. I was not able to identify the species involved but I then located another owl sitting above the calling juvenile. Although it was partly obscured, I was able to discern that it had pale underparts and a small, pale facial disc suggesting that it might be a Minahassa Owl. It was clearly not a Sulawesi Owl *T. rosenbergii*, which has a large dark brown facial disc and brownish-buff underparts. Not wishing to disturb the owls unduly I switched off the torch and sat in the darkness near the tree. About 10 minutes before daybreak, at approximately 05h05 an adult *Tyto* owl called several times from another part of the tree, then

both adults flew to another tree where they alighted briefly before flying back into the strangler-fig, where they disappeared from view. Shortly afterwards the juvenile owl, which had been calling intermittently, scrambled down the branch to the central trunk region and disappeared from view in the network of aerial roots. A long sequence of the call of the juvenile bird and a short sequence of the adult were tape-recorded.

The following evening it rained heavily between 17h00 and 23h00 and no calls were heard from the owls.

On the evening of 9 September the feeding calls of the juvenile bird were heard at 20h30 and it was located on the same branch where it had been seen previously. One of the adult birds was perched next to it and I was able to confirm that it was a Minahassa Owl. I turned off the torch and could hear the adult making soft chuckling noises to the young bird, which had stopped calling and was presumably being fed. Shortly afterwards the adult left the tree and flew back into the forest. Between then and 00h00 the young bird called occasionally, usually a single call each time. From the forest I heard two different *Tyto* type calls, one similar to that of the adult Minahassa Owl heard the previous morning, and a deeper, stronger call which was presumed to come from the Sulawesi Owl, which also occurs in the area.

The next morning, about 04h30, the young owl started calling again repeatedly and the torch beam revealed both the adult and juvenile sitting close together, the former apparently feeding the latter. About 15 minutes before daybreak the adult (probably the female because it did not call) flew to another tree and

back to the strangler-fig as it had done previously. This time, however, it perched on a horizontal piece of the central trunk system where it was joined by the juvenile. In the torchlight the adult resembled a small, slim Barn Owl *T. alba*, with the most obvious difference being the small facial disk in relation to its body size, giving a tapering appearance to the head and neck in a side view.

Both birds remained sitting quietly until the first light

of dawn, when the adult, followed shortly by the juvenile, climbed down into a hole behind their perch and disappeared from view.

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# Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*: a new species for the Philippines

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On 21 February 1997, at approximately 840 m at Hamut Camp near the base of Los Dos Cuernos (17°33'N 121°59'E, see Jacobsen *et al.* 1996) in the Sierra Madre range in Isabella Province, northern Luzon, I observed a Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*. It was close to a trail passing through an area of lush forest understorey where I had previously seen a Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*, and within the territory of a Whiskered Pitta *Pitta kochi*. I was therefore moving very slowly and my attention was drawn by a soft *tshhk.....tshhk* call, which was repeated regularly from the track side. By imitating the call I persuaded the bird to creep out of cover, where it gave good views for some minutes before working its way back into the vegetation and disappearing.

It was a classic individual, appearing stocky with noticeably pale, thick legs and pale stubby bill, a well-marked head with a long upwardly-kinked supercilium. Its slightly raised tail showed the rear flanks and undertail coverts to be buffy in tone, contrasting with paler underparts.

I was convinced of the identification as Radde's Warbler and thought little more about it until I returned home and, whilst getting my notes up to date, was surprised to find that Radde's Warbler did not appear on any of the Philippine checklists I was using. I subsequently found that neither duPont (1971) nor Dickinson *et al.* (1991) list it as having occurred in the Philippines.

The only potential confusion species — Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, which could easily be ruled out on the combination of features noted — is also a rare bird in the Philippines with only one record cited by Dickinson *et al.* (1991): c. 15 km from San Jose, Mindoro, on 15 April 1971. There are no Philippine records of Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*, although this species could also be ruled out on call and structure.

The occurrence of Radde's Warbler in the Philippines is not particularly surprising. Eastern Siberian populations migrate across Manchuria and Korea, passing through north-east and east China to winter in south China, Myanmar, Indochina and Thailand. It has been recorded annually in Hong Kong in recent years (Hong Kong Bird Reports 1990-1995), a locality only about 960 km from northern Luzon.

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